



### Fire Rescue Support exists to support fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call

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#### The Least of These

Saturday, June 18 was going to be one of those lazy, second-cup-of-coffee days. It had been a busy week, but there was nothing on the calendar. However, at about 7:45am I was alerted to a call for a pediatric cardiac arrest. I responded to the hospital to find that a 4 month old had died.

I found our personnel in the consultation room. They were just hanging out; checking in on each other. Moments later we were asked to leave the room as the family had arrived and needed a place to be. As I was leaving to continue my time with our crew, the ER staff introduced me to the family. "This is the Chaplain with the Fire Department. He'll be able to help you."

I watched my crew walk away knowing I'd have the chance to connect with them again. For now, God had brought a shattered family into my life.

I walked back into the consultation room and sat with the grieving parents. They were a young couple in their early 20s. They struggled for words; struggled for answers. I sat with them offering hope when it seemed right; sitting silently when it didn't.

I know all about the responsibility of representing Jesus to the world. I understand the privilege of being His hands and feet to the broken. But what still amazes me, is that while I'm *being* Jesus, I'm also *meeting* Jesus.

That is, while I'm out representing Him, I'm also caring for Him, comforting Him, loving Him. Jesus talked about this in Matthew 25.

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

#### New Studies from NFFF

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) is an organization committed to honoring and remembering America's fallen fire heroes. In addition, they are committed to reducing firefighter deaths and injuries. To this end, the NFFF has recently published two articles dealing with two significant issues in the fire service.

[Fire Service Occupational Cancer Alliance](#) presents a summary of the work accomplished in the past year regarding the issue of how cancer is affecting the fire service. "KNOW Firefighter **Cancer**" is the tagline used to bring awareness and an eventual end to firefighter occupational cancer.

[Heart to Heart: Strategizing an Evidence-based Approach to Reduce Cardiac Disease and Death in the Fire Service](#) shares the findings and recommendations of a December 2015 gathering focused on increasing adoption of best practices for cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention and treatment.

#### CISM Training

Over the next couple of months I'll be in the following locations teaching the two core courses in the field of critical incident stress management.

Gainesville, FL (Alachua County) – August 23-25  
Miramar, FL (Broward County) – October 18-20

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

If none of these locations or dates are convenient and you have a group of at least 15 that is interested in these courses, contact me and I may be able to set up training in your area.

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## **America the Beautiful**



“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

It was Thursday, July 4, 1776. After years of unjust acts by Britain, the Colonies declared their independence. So begins the story of the United States of America and for the past 240 years, the story of our country has been marked by incredible success, significant loss and an undying spirit.

I truly believe in America the Beautiful, but I also believe that we have lost our way. While I am not of the opinion that the Founding Fathers were all born-again Christians, it is evident that there was a shared reliance upon God from the very foundation of our Nation. These phrases from the Declaration of Independence indicate that this indeed was the case.

“...to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them...”

“...endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...”

“...appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions...”

“...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence...”

There is a need for us to return to beginning, to the time when it was realized that it would take more than man's wisdom to create a country; more than man's strength to secure a nation; more than man's insight for America to be beautiful. We would need to rely upon our Creator, the Supreme Judge, divine Providence. We would need to rely on God.

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I don't believe everyone understood or approached God the same way at the beginning of our country. However, there was a consistent, generally accepted reliance upon and adherence to the Judeo-Christian worldview. This worldview, based on God's Word, provides guidance on how America can be made beautiful again. Proverbs 14:34 says, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people." For America to be beautiful again, we need to return to righteousness; right living, right choices, right ways. And right is defined as it has always been defined, by absolute truth; God's truth.

The interesting thing about beauty is that it truly is in the eye of the beholder. Many would choose to look at our country today and see anything but beauty. And while we indeed have many flaws, faults and scars as a Nation, I choose to see in America a Nation that God has blessed and a Nation that God has called to be beautiful for the sake of the world.

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
For amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties  
Above the fruited plain!  
America! America!  
God shed His grace on thee  
And crown thy good with brotherhood  
From sea to shining sea!

As we consider America the Beautiful, let's not forget the closing words of the Declaration of Independence. For it is here that we find our call to make America beautiful again. "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."





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For eligible purchases at Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. You can make Fire Rescue Support your organization by [clicking here](#). Then every time you order through the Amazon Smile website you'll be helping Fire Rescue Support continue its mission of supporting fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call.



**Thank you!**

Thanks for your interest in and partnership with Fire Rescue Support. Because of you, we have the opportunity to support fire rescue personnel before, during and after the call. Visit [www.firerescuesupport.com](http://www.firerescuesupport.com) for more information or to donate. You can also find us on Facebook. And please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance personally or professionally. You can reach me at 352-425-1643 or [joe@firerescuesupport.com](mailto:joe@firerescuesupport.com).

